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The Healthy Kids Program

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A Chance That Lasts A Lifetime . . .

Illinois Department of Public Aid

Susan S. Suter
Director

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The Healthy Kids Program Provides Good Health for Children and Teens.

The Healthy Kids Program is an Illinois Department of Public Aid program that helps kids stay healthy. It works by making it easy to take children to the doctor BEFORE they get sick.

The Healthy Kids Program is a preventive health care program. There are three goals:

- the prevention of childhood diseases which may threaten a child's health and development;
- the early detection of conditions in children which may require further diagnosis and treatment; and
- the reduction of long term costs of medical care to people receiving public assistance.



The Healthy Kids Program offers preventive health care by encouraging regular medical screenings. The program provides for a series of periodic checkups — or medical screenings — scheduled at designated times for children from birth through 20 years of age.

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Sometimes, though, it is hard for people receiving public assistance to take advantage of available opportunities or even to know they exist. That is why the Healthy Kids Program includes outreach activities to inform people about the program's services. The Healthy Kids Program also provides help in finding a doctor and arranging transportation to and from the doctor's office; all designed to encourage people to seek the benefits of Healthy Kids Program services.



Healthy Kids is also an effort to help reduce the long term costs of medical care. And in this regard, Healthy Kids is paying off. The National Center for Disease Control estimates that for every \$1 spent on childhood immunization pro-

grams, \$10 is saved in future costs.

A Cooperative Effort Helps Prevent Today's Health Problems for Tomorrow.

The real measure of success, however, is whether the Healthy Kids Program will result in healthier lives for Illinois' children. We believe that it will. Furthermore, the Department cooperates with other state agencies and professional health organizations to improve Healthy Kids Program services. Examples of such cooperation include:



- development of a cooperative vaccine replacement program with the Illinois Department of Public Health which assures the timely replacement of vaccines to providers while also saving over \$1,000,000 per year in costs.
- cooperation with the Governor's Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative known as Families with a Future.
- development of a blood lead survey program in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health, which provides the resources to identify the causes of a child's high blood lead level.

The Healthy Kids Program is aimed at providing a healthy life for children unable to afford medical care. It is preventive in nature and is designed to encourage parents to take their children to a doctor before they get sick.

Services include complete periodic health exams which include:

- health and developmental history;
- physical growth assessment;
- developmental assessment;
- unclothed physical examination;
- vision and hearing screening;
- elective laboratory tests;
- immunizations;
- referral for dental care;
- diagnosis and treatment.



The Healthy Kids Program Can Mean The Difference Between a Healthy Childhood and One Spent Struggling From Illness to Illness.

“The Healthy Kids Program can mean the difference between a healthy childhood and one spent struggling from illness to illness. I hope parents take advantage of this program so that medical conditions can be identified BEFORE they become major problems.

This is a program that helps ensure healthy lives for Illinois’ children.”

Susan S. Suter
Director

For more information, write to:

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